

## Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-10

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SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /074 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/AFN:ALEGGIO:LLC  
APPROVED BY NEA:JKBISHOP  
HA/HR:EOJONES

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R 310219Z JAN 78  
FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO AMEMBASSY TUNIS  
INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS

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E.O. 11652:

TAGS: PFRP SHUM TS

SUBJECT: NEW YORK TIMES ARTICLES, JANUARY 30, 1978

1. FOLLOWING ARE TWO ARTICLES FROM NEW YORK TIMES, MONDAY,  
JANUARY 30, REGARDING TUNISIA:

2. QUOTE: A TUNISIAN OPPOSITION LEADER SAID TODAY THAT  
ABOUT 100 PEOPLE HAD DIED IN ANTI-GOVERNMENT RIOTS LAST  
WEEK AND AUTHORITIES DISCLOSED THAT THEY HAD ARRESTED THE  
COUNTRY'S TOP LABOR UNION LEADER.

THE DEATH TOLL GIVEN BY FORMER INTERIOR MINISTER AHMED  
MESTIRI AT A NEWS CONFERENCE CONTRASTED WITH THE OFFICIAL  
ESTIMATE OF 42 PEOPLE KILLED. MR. MESTIRI, NOW AN OPPONENT  
OF THE GOVERNMENT, SAID THAT THE DEATH TOLL COULD RISE  
BECAUSE A LARGE NUMBER OF PEOPLE HAD BEEN INJURED IN THE  
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RIOTING WHEN TANKS WERE USED TO QUELL THE VIOLENCE.

THE OFFICIAL TUNISIAN NEWS AGENCY SAID THAT HABIB ACHOUR,  
THE LEADER OF THE GENERAL WORKERS UNION, HAD BEEN TAKEN INTO  
CUSTODY LAST NIGHT BY SECURITY FORCES WHO ROUNDED UP UNION  
MILITANTS. EIGHT OF THE 13 EXECUTIVES OF THE GENERAL  
WORKERS UNION ALSO HAVE BEEN ARRESTED ALONG WITH HUNDREDS

OF OTHER UNION MEMBERS. UNQUOTE. TUNIS, JANUARY 29  
(REUTERS).

3. QUOTE: THE NUMBER OF PEOPLE KILLED IN POLICE AND ARMY  
ACTION AGAINST DEMONSTRATIONS LAST THURSDAY IN TUNISIA  
DURING A 24-HOUR GENERAL STRIKE IS BEING PUT HERE AT A  
MINIMUM OF 200 BY INFORMED TUNISIAN SOURCES. THAT FIGURE,  
OBTAINED BY A METHODOICAL CHECKING OF TUNISIA'S MAIN  
HOSPITALS BY TELEPHONE FROM PARIS, WAS DOUBLE AN INCREASED  
FIGURE GIVEN THIS MORNING BY THE TUNISIAN GOVERNMENT.  
PARIS JANUARY 29.

4. DEPARTMENT WOULD APPRECIATE EMBASSY'S COMMENT  
REGARDING ACCURACY DEATH AND CASUALTIES FIGURES.  
VANCE

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NNN

## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PRESS COMMENTS, CIVIL DISORDERS  
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**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
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**Disposition History:** n/a  
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**Subject:** NEW YORK TIMES ARTICLES, JANUARY 30, 1978  
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